

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 1212

EXDIS

LONDON PASS TO SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: CAPE TOWN FIVE MEETING JUNE 17

REF: USUN 2532,

THE CAPE TOWN FIVE MET THIS MORNING (JUNE 17) TO DISCUSS THE
NEW YORK CONTACT GROUP'S PROPOSAL THAT IT PROCEED TO PRETORIA
AFTER MEETING WITH NYERERE NEXT WEEK. THE FOLLOWING ARE
THE CAPE TOWN FIVE'S AGREED COMMENTS.

1. WE HAVE SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE PROPOSAL THAT THE
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CONTACT GROUP FOLLOW UP ITS EXPLORATION OF NYERE'S THOUGHTS
IN DAR BY A MEETING HERE WITH THE SAG. SUCH A VISIT WOULD
BE A MAJOR EVENT GIVING THE IMPRESSION OF REOPENING OF THE
NEGOTIATIONS TO SECURE FURTHER AND PERHAPS MAJOR CONCESSIONS
FROM THE SAG. THE SOUTH AFRICANS HOLD THAT THEY HAVE MET ALL
THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FIVE BY THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF THE WESTERN
PROPOSAL, WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER HIMSELF HAS FIRMLY AND PUBLICLY

DECLARED TO BE FINAL AND DEFINITIVE. THE SAG WOULD BE PUT INTO A HIGHLY RIGID AND DEFENSIVE FRAME OF MIND. THE TALKS, NO MATTER HOW STRUCTURED, WOULD BE FORMAL AND WOULD THUS RISK THE LOSS OF ANY SOUTH AFRICAN FLEXIBILITY WHICH MIGHT REMAIN. MOREOVER, SAG INFLEXIBILITY WILL BE GREATER BECAUSE PRIME MINISTER VORSTER, WE UNDERSTAND, WILL BE AWAY ON A HUNTING TRIP AND UNAVAILABLE.

2. WE URGE THAT OTHER OPTIONS BE CONSIDERED. IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO ASK BOTHA TO COME TO MEET WITH THE FIVE OR EVEN WITH ONE OF THEM AT SOME OTHER PLACE. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WOULD APPEAR AS THOUGH BOTHA WAS BEING "SUMMONED" BY THE FIVE. WE SUGGEST RATHER THAT THE FIVE FOREIGN MINISTERS CONSIDER SENDING A MESSAGE TO BOTHA OR AGREE ON ONE OF THEM VISITING PRETORIA. THIS APPROACH WOULD BE MORE ACCEPTABLE TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS AND THUS MORE LIKELY TO BE EFFECTIVE.

3. IF, AFTER DUE CONSIDERATION, IT IS DECIDED THE CONTACT GROUP SHOULD MAKE THE TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA AFTER SEEING NYERERE, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE CLEAR BEFOREHAND THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE COMING AS ADVOCATES OF WHAT SWAPO PROPOSES. TO HAVE ANY CHANCE FOR SUCCESS, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE SOUTH AFRICANS SEE IT AS AN EFFORT BY THE FIVE TO EXPLORE POSSIBLE AREAS OF COMPROMISE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE WESTERN PROPOSAL AS IT NOW STANDS. FOR EXAMPLE, AS DISCUSSED IN PARIS, WE MIGHT SEEK AN UNDERTAKING BY SOUTH AFRICA TO FOREGO THE USE OF OSHIVELLO.
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